

The Cape Coast Ministerial Communiqué, 2019

The Commissioner for Higher Education from Uganda presented the draft Communiqué from the Technical Experts in Higher Education, Agriculture, Science, Technology and Innovation highlighting the emerging areas of importance for intervention by universities and the proposed initiatives to address the challenges around the areas of importance. The communiqué as adopted is reproduced below:

We, the Ministers and Senior Leaders of Agriculture, Higher Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovations, and Finance assembled at the Ministerial Roundtable meeting on Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation held at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana on 5th December 2019;

1. **NOTING WITH CONCERN** the underperformance of African countries in capacities to generate knowledge, technologies, and innovations to drive economic development in the continent;
2. **NOTING** the decisions of the **FIRST SUMMIT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN HEADS OF STATE** championing Education, Science, Technology and Innovation held in Lilongwe 2018, that identified key actions to be undertaken by Member States and African Universities to address the gaps;
3. **RECALLING** that the Africa's Ministerial meetings held in 2016 in Cape Town, 2017 in Lilongwe, and 2018 in Nairobi called for continental initiatives to Strengthen Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHA EA), Build Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity (BASTIC), Strengthen Africa's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Capacity (SASTIE), Escalate Postgraduate Training in Africa, and increase staffing capacities and the pool of Women Scientists in African Universities (RISSCAW), and African Digital Agriculture Programme (AfriDAP);
4. **NOTING THAT** African Union Commission signed an MoU with RUFORUM in 2014 for the implementation of Science, Technology, Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024 PRIORITY Area 1 on reducing poverty and enhancing food and nutrition security;
5. **NOTING WITH APPRECIATION** the efforts by African Universities to support Africa's development through the Africa's Universities Agenda for Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa;
6. **NOTING** the need to strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems and enhance educational value chains in Africa;
7. **NOTING** the disproportionate low female participation in Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation;
8. **NOTING** the significant expansion within the Higher Education sector and the spiralling intake of undergraduate students without parallel expansion in

resources including funding, infrastructure, equipment, and staff at African universities;

9. **FURTHER NOTING THAT** there are several opportunities for strengthening the Higher Education sector in Africa, especially: (i) increased importance of **human capital** as a basis for strong knowledge-based economies; (ii) **Youth** demographic dividend requires an urgent and sustained intervention from a multiplicity of stakeholders (public, private, community and partners); (iii) **Technical Skills** at various levels will be a key pathway to accelerating innovation and expanding employment opportunities; (iv) **Techno-Entrepreneurship** holds the promise for translating the diverse natural resources and tapping into youth potential to develop products that create wealth and meet societal needs; and, v) The **Fourth Industrial Revolution** is shaping advances in artificial intelligence and deployment of digital tools for agricultural transformation;
10. **RECOGNISING** the importance of Higher Education as a key mechanism to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 *'The Africa We Want'*;
11. **RECALLING** that Africa's Ministerial meeting held on 23 October 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya called on Member States to ratify the RUFORUM Charter following each country's specific procedures.

WE HEREBY ENDORSE

The Five Continental Initiatives for strengthening Africa Innovation Capacity, increasing its competitiveness, enhancing youth employability and entrepreneurship;

AND AGREE TO

1. **COMMIT** to put in place mechanisms including continental collaborative programmes for strengthening staff capacities and increasing the pool of women scientists in African Universities and other research and development institutions;
2. **UNDERTAKE** strategic interventions to catalyse graduate and postdoctoral training to bolster the capacity of universities to generate the requisite knowledge, skills and innovations;
3. **INVEST** in youth programs that advance requisite technical skills, entrepreneurship and uptake of digital solutions to expand innovation and employability;
4. **ESTABLISH** Higher Education Centres of Excellence for Building Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity

WE FURTHER

1. **URGE** the Member States to endorse the RUFORUM Charter through their respective procedures;
2. **URGE** the Member States that committed to participation in the Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA) program and the African Union Commission to engage the World Bank to execute the funding arrangements for full implementation of the SHAEA program and the Sub-Regional Agricultural Productivity Programmes;
3. **URGE** the Member States to support the strengthening of TVET systems and educational value chains in Africa;
4. **URGE** the Member States to engage RUFORUM as technical advisory agency in the design and implementation of Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Initiatives;
5. **URGE** the African Union Commission to reach out to African Development Bank and other Funding Agencies to finance the Five Continental Initiatives and a Regional Academic Mobility Programme;
6. **URGE** the African Union Commission to request from MULTI LATERAL AGENCIES to include RUFORUM in funding support to Africa; and
7. **URGE** the African Governments and the African Union Commission to table the above recommendations through the African Union Commission Specialized Committee on Human Resource and Science and Technology, to the African Heads of State and Government during their AU Heads of State January-February 2020 Summit.

Signed by:

Name	Designation	Country
Hon. Dr Mathew Opoku Prempeh	Minister	Ministry of Education, GHANA
H.E Eugénio Adolfo Alves da Silva	State Secretary	Ministry Higher Education, ANGOLA
Hon. Pr. Eleonore Ladekan Yayi	Minister	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, BENIN
Hon. Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona	Minister	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, BURUNDI
Hon. Lady Howard Mabuza	Minister	Ministry of Education and Training, ESWATINI
Hon. Diholo Kotiti Lawson	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Education and Training, LESOTHO
Hon. Prof. Ansu Dao Sonii, Sr	Minister	Ministry of Education, LIBERIA
Hon. Prof. Mahamoudou Famanta	Minister	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, MALI
Hon. Dr William Susuwele Banda	Minister	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, MALAWI
Hon. Dr. Becky Ndjoze-Ojo	Deputy Minister	Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, NAMIBIA
Hon. Prof. Aiah Gbakima	Minister	Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, SIERRA LEONE
H.E Prof. Intisar Soghayroun Elzein Soghayroun	Minister	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, SUDAN
Hon. Yien Oral Lam Tut	Minister	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, SOUTH SUDAN
Hon. Dr. John Chrysostom Musingo	State Minister	Ministry of Education and Sports, UGANDA
Hon. Dr. Brian Mushimba	Minister	Ministry of Higher Education, ZAMBIA
Hon. Prof. Amon Murwira	Minister	Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, ZIMBABWE
Hon. Prof. Jacques Fame Ndongo	State Minister	Ministry of Higher Education CAMEROON
Hon. Prof. Gabriel Ismael Salimo	Minister	Ministry of Science and Technology, Higher Education and Professional Technician MOZAMBIQUE
Hon. Prof. Thomas Luhaka Losendjola	Minister	Ministry of Higher Education THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO